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Saturday, November 18, 2000

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Community Center marks Opening with Special Blessing, Guest



Archbishop Robert J. Banks was warmly welcomed by members of the community upon his arrival to the dedication and blessing of the newly built Menominee Community Center of Neopit last week. *Story on pg. 3*

Skubitz takes Top Vote in Tribal Legislature Election

By Yvonne Matson
Menominee Nation News

KESHENA, Wis. — Sarah Skubitz, a Menominee Language Instructor at the College of Menominee Nation, came out on top with 534 votes in the Menominee Tribal Legislature Election.

Study says casino would drain cash from region

Special to MNN
Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — A proposed casino would drain about \$221 million a year from the regional economy, according to a study commissioned by the casino's opponents.

The Menominee Nation's casino, planned for the Dairyland Greyhound Park, will derive only 10 percent of its revenue from people outside the region, while 90 percent of the money will come from residents in the

Runner-up was Lorene Pocan who captured 517 votes. Pocan was previously employed in the social work field for 27 years prior to her retirement in April 1998.

Two incumbents whose terms expire in February 2001 did not make the top six in the Primary. Barbara Frechette-Kelley and James C. Wayka were unsuccessful in their attempts for re-election with 373 and 263 respectively.

However, incumbent Lisa S. Waukau, garnered 418 votes for the #5 spot.

Rounding out the top six were (in

See **RESULTS** page 2

Judgement Funds Eligibility Criteria Clarified

By Yvonne Matson
Menominee Nation News

The BIA-Great Lakes Agency has been bombarded with phone calls since the judgement funds were distributed last month on October 13th.

There has been some confusion

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FUNDS:

with eligibility requirements pertaining to deceased tribal members.

According to Menominee Tribal Administrator Betty Jo Wozniak, tribal members who passed on before August 17th, 1999, are ineligible. "Public Law 106-54 was signed by President Clinton on August 17, 1999. And that date is the official date of record to be eligible to receive the judgement funds," said Ms. Wozniak. "Relatives who passed on 5, 10, 15 years ago do not qualify for disbursement," she added.

The following provisions were published in the Menominee Nation News (September 9, 1999 - Vol. 23, #17) informing the public of the eligibility requirements to receive the judgement funds once the plan was approved:

- a. Individuals must have been born on or before and living on August 17, 1999 (enactment date of P.L. 106.54) and;
- b. Be on the current tribal rolls; or
- c. Have been an enrolled tribal member by October 15, 1999.

Trust Accounts have been established for those members who passed on between August 17th, 1999 and October 13th, 2000 - the date judgement payments were distributed to tribal members. The judgement payment, including any interest earned, will be distributed pending the determination of legal heirs. Once the legal heirs of the deceased have been determined by the B.I. A., a request must be processed for disbursement of the funds. "A certified copy of the death certificate must accompany your request for probate," said Ms. Wozniak.

On another note, parents or legal guardians of minors and legal incompetents may only access trust funds established in the name of the minor or legal incompetent for bona fide education, health, welfare, or emergency purposes. Parents or legal guardians may apply for access to these funds once the Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs approves a plan providing for such access.

The Menominee Nation News will release more information concerning the plan once it is approved. The federal government ended the tribe's federal trust status from 1961 to 1973. During that period, the tribe's reservation became Menominee County and the tribe plunged into years of poverty and turmoil. Tribal land became subject to state taxes, and the tribe was forced to close its hospital and sell its phone company and power plant.

In 1967 the tribe filed a lawsuit alleging mismanagement of tribal assets by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. That eventually led to the recent settlement. For additional information regarding the

trust funds of the deceased, you may write to:

BIA Great Lakes Agency
Attn: Pat Berlin
615 Main West
Ashland, WI 54806-0273

You may also contact her directly at: 1-715-682-4772.

RESULTS:

descending order)

Louis Dixon - 466, Myron Pyawasit - 431, and Adrian 'Dusty' Miller in the 6th place position with 369 votes to his credit.

Only two votes separated incumbent Kelly and Miller, 367 and 369 respectively. A recount conducted on Wed., Nov. 15th at the request of the incumbent, proved to be fruitless. Mr. Miller gained 7 additional votes (376 votes after recount). Kelly gained 6 additional votes, (373 after recount) however, it was not enough to get her name on the ballot in January 2001.

The final tally for the other nineteen (19) candidates were as follows:

(Inc.) Barbara Frechette-Kelly - 373, Theodore 'Tony' Warrington - 322, Orman Waukau - 293, Myrna Zhuckkahosee-Jackson - 272, Bruce A. Wilber Sr. - 268, (Inc.) James Wayka - 263, Royal E. Warrington - 248, Rudolph 'Rudy' Reiter - 202, Chris 'Porch' Peters - 200, Albert Fowler - 196, Kenneth A. Fish - 166, Rogerine Wychesit - 163, James 'Bubzy' Boivin - 158, Anthony Awonohopay - 149, Wanda Guzman - 138, Myrna 'Tudy' Warrington - 133, Faye (Waukau) Annamitta - 130, Marilyn R. Warrington - 118, and Jill Burr-Gonzalez - 99.

The final election will be held on Wednesday, January 10th, 2001 at the Neopit Firestation and Thursday, January 11th 2001 in Keshena in the Gordon Dickie Center conference room. The polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. both days. Incumbent Sid Lepscier defeated write-in candidate Elizabeth 'Beth' Moses in the Menominee County Sheriff election by a 2 to 1 margin. Lepscier received 787 to Moses' 331 votes in the final election held last week.

STUDY:

will come from residents in the surrounding eight-county area, which includes Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington and Lake (Ill.) counties, according to the study. The Kenosha Coalition Against Legalized Gambling paid \$2,000 to William N. Thompson, a professor of public administration at the University of Nevada - Las Vegas, to complete the study.

Earlier this fall, Thompson developed an analysis with similar findings for opponents of the Ho Chunk tribe's proposed casino in La Crosse. Thompson's study concludes that given the imbalance of spending, social costs of compulsive gambling and crime fostered by the casino and the tribe's plans to remove up to 70 percent of profits from the region, the project will create a drag on the regional economy, not the economic boost that casino proponents have suggested.

The professor's study is based in part on numbers developed by Crowe Chizek and Co., an Indianapolis consulting firm hired by the city in 1998 to research the economic and social effects of casino gambling in Kenosha. Thompson forecasts an annual draw on the region of \$221,967,578.

Thompson also has done research work on behalf of other tribes, showing the positive economic benefits of casinos where the majority of revenue would come from outside the region where a casino was located. The Menominee want permission from the US Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the Kenosha property in trust, a condition necessary to obtain a gambling license because the casino must be on tribal land. Existing contracts between the tribe, the city and Kenosha County will expire if BIA and full state approval is not obtained by Dec. 31.

On the Net: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin: <http://www.menominee.nsn.us>

Wisconsin Division of Gaming: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/gaming/index.asp>